NUMB. XCVI.

The GUARDIAN.

Cuncti adſint, meritæque; expectent præmia palmæ. Virg.

Wedneſday, July 1. 1713.

THERE is no Maxim in Politicks more indiſputable, than that a Nation ſhould have many Honours in reſerve for thoſe who do National Services. This raiſes Emulation, cheriſhes Publick Merit, and inſpires every one with an Ambition which promotes the Good of his Country. The leſs expenſive theſe Honours are to the Publick, the more ſtill do they turn to its Advantage.

The *Romans* abounded with theſe little Honorary Rewards, that without conferring Wealth or Riches, gave only Place and Diſtinction to the Perſon who received them. An Oaken Garland to be worn on Feſtivals and Publick Ceremonies, was the glorious Recompence of one who had covered a Citizen in Battle. A Soldier would not only venture his Life for a Mural Crown, but think the moſt hazardous Enterprize ſufficiently repaid by ſo noble a Donation.

But among all Honorary Rewards which are neither dangerous nor detrimental to the Donor, I remember none ſo remarkable as the Titles which are beſtowed by the Emperor of *China*. Theſe are never given to any Subject, ſays Monſieur *le Conte*, 'till the Subject is dead. If he has pleaſed his Emperor to the laſt, he is called in all Publick Memorials by the Title which the Emperor confers on him after his Death, and his Children take their Rank accordingly. This keeps the Ambitious Subject in a perpetual Dependence, making him always Vigilant and Active, and in every thing conformable to the Will of his Sovereign.

There are no Honorary Rewards among us, which are more eſteemed by the Perſon who receives them, and are cheaper to the Prince, than the giving of Medals. But there is ſomething in the Modern Manner of celebrating a great Action in Medals, which makes ſuch a Reward much leſs valuable than it was among the *Romans*. There is generally but one Coin ſtampt upon the Occaſion, which is made a Preſent to the Perſon who is celebrated on it. By this means his whole Fame is in his own Cuſtody. The Applauſe that is beſtowed upon him is too much limited and confined. He is in Poſſeſſion of an Honour which the World perhaps knows nothing of. He may be a great Man in his own Family; His Wife and Children may ſee the Monument of an Exploit, which the Publick in a little time is a Stranger to. The *Romans* took a quite different Method in this Particular. Their Medals were their Current Mony. When an Action deſerved to be recorded on a Coin, it was ſtampt perhaps upon an hundred thouſand Pieces of Mony like our Shillings, or Half-pence, which were iſſued out of the Mint, and became Current. This Method publiſhed every noble Action to Advantage, and in a ſhort ſpace of Time ſpread through the whole *Roman* Empire. The *Romans* were ſo careful to preſerve the Memory of great Events upon their Coins, that when any particular Piece of Mony grew very ſcarce, it was often Re-coined by a ſucceeding Emperor, many Years after the Death of the Emperor to whoſe Honour it was firſt ſtruck.

A Friend of mine drew up a Project of this Nature during the late Miniſtry, which would then have been put in execution, had it not been too buſie a time for Thoughts of that Nature. As this Project has been very much talked of by the Gentleman above-mentioned to Men of the greateſt Genius, as well as Quality, I am informed there is now a Deſign on foot for executing the Propoſal which was then made, and that we ſhall have ſeveral Farthings and Half-pence charged on the Reverſe with many of the glorious Particulars of her Majeſty's Reign. This is one of thoſe Arts of Peace which may very well deſerve to be cultivated, and which may be of great uſe to Poſterity.

As I have in my Poſſeſſion the Copy of the Paper above-mentioned, which was delivered to the late Lord Treaſurer, I ſhall here give the Publick a ſight of it. For I do not queſtion, but that the curious Part of my Readers will be very well pleaſed to ſee ſo much Matter, and ſo many uſeful Hints upon this

(Price Two Pence.)

this Subject, laid together in ſo clear and conciſe a manner.

THE *Engliſh* have not been ſo careful as other polite Nations to preſerve the Memory of their great Actions and Events on Medals. Their Subjects are few, their Mottos and Devices mean, and the Coins themſelves not Numerous enough to ſpread among the People, or deſcend to Poſterity.

The *French* have outdone us in theſe Particulars, and, by the Eſtabliſhment of a Society for the Invention of proper Inſcriptions and Deſigns, have the whole Hiſtory of their preſent King in a regular Series of Medals.

They have failed, as well as the *Engliſh*, in coining ſo ſmall a Number of each Kind, and thoſe of ſuch coſtly Metals, that each Species may be loſt in a few Ages, and is at preſent no where to be met with but in the Cabinets of the Curious.

The ancient *Romans* took the only effectual Method to diſperſe and preſerve their Medals, by making them their current Mony.

Every thing glorious or uſeful, as well in Peace as War, gave Occaſion to a different Coin. Not only an Expedition, Victory, or Triumph, but the Exerciſe of a ſolemn Devotion, the Remiſſion of a Duty or Tax, a new Temple, Sea-Port, or Highway, were tranſmitted to Poſterity after this Manner.

The greateſt Variety of Devices are on their Coppor Money, which have moſt of the Deſigns that are to be met with on the Gold and Silver, and ſeveral peculiar to that Metal only. By this Means they were diſperſed into the remoteſt Corners of the Empire, came into the Poſſeſſion of the Poor as well as Rich, and were in no Danger of periſhing in the Hands of thoſe that might have melted down Coins of a more valuable Metal.

Add to all this, that the Deſigns were invented by Men of Genius, and executed by a Decree of Senate.

It is therefore propoſed,

I. That the *Engliſh* Farthings and Half pence be Recoined upon the Union of the two Nations.

II. That they bear Devices and Inſcriptions alluding to all the moſt remarkable Parts of her Majeſty's Reign.

III. That there be a Society eſtabliſhed for the finding out of proper Subjects, Inſcriptions, and Devices.

IV. That no Subject, Inſcription, or Device be ſtamped without the Approbation of this Society, nor, if it be thought proper, without the Authority of Privy-Council.

By this Means, Medals, that are, at preſent, only a dead Treaſure, or meer Curioſities, will be of Uſe in the ordinary Commerce of Life, and, at the ſame time, perpetuate the Glories of Her Majeſty's Reign, reward the Labours of Her greateſt Subjects, keep alive in the People a Gratitude for publick Services, and excite the Emulation of Poſterity. To theſe generous Purpoſes nothing can ſo much contribute as Medals of this Kind, which are of undoubted Authority, of neceſſary Uſe and Obſervation, not periſhable by Time, nor confined to any certain Place; Properties not to be found in Books, Statues, Pictures, Buildings, or any other Monuments of Illuſtrious Actions.

This Paper is to be had of Mr. Yemes *under the* Thatch'd-houſe *Tavern in St.* James's-ſtreet; *Mrs.* Bond *at* Charing-croſs; *Mrs.* Bolter *and Mrs.* Dodd *near the* Temple-gate; *and Mr.* Round *in* Exchange-Ally.

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This is to give Notice,

That on Friday next the 3d Inſtant, at 10 a Clock, all the Houſhold Goods late Nicholas Polexfen's Eſq; are to be Sold by Auction at his late Dwelling-houſe the upper End of Albemarle-ſtreet St. James's, on the left Hand; conſiſting of Damaſk and other Bed's and Beding, fine Tapeſtry, Window Curtains, fine Indian Cabinets, Screens, Tea-tables, Pictures, Looking-glaſſes, Chimney glaſſes, Sconces, Snow grates, Chairs, very fine China, ſome Books and Kitchin goods, &c. They may be ſeen this Day and to morrow before the Sale. Catalogues may be had at the Houſe.

Wholeſale or Retail,

Excellent new French Clarets and French White Wines newly landed from Bourdeaux, of the true Flavour, comparable to any Parcel, continue to be Sold with great Succeſs from eighteen to twenty Pounds per Hogſhead, and by the Gallon at ſix Shillings and eight Pence. N. B. To encourage a quick Sale, good Allowance will be given to a Quantity. Any Gentleman or Retailer, ſending a Penny-Poſt Letter, or Servant, to the French Wine-Vaule under Skinner's Hall in Elbow-Lane, may be ſupplied as faithfully as tho' they came themſelves. Conſtant Attendance being given.

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